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CROFT RURAL DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT

of

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

for

1953

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
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F.W.Gavin, M.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

To the Chairman and Councillors of the
Croft Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1953.

The vital statistics for the year under review are again favourable, the birth rate at 22.23 per 1,000 of the population remained higher than the National figure at 15.50. There were 37 live births as against 47 in 1952.

For the fourth year in succession there were no maternal deaths, and the total number of deaths in the district was 22 giving a death rate of 8.58 which compares with the National rate of 11.40, there being one death from Cancer and seven deaths from heart disease. There were two infantile deaths, one from congenital heart disease and one death from prematurity.

It is noted that there were no deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis.

During the early months of the year Measles was epidemic throught the county and in the Croft Area this disease accounted for no less than 75 of the total notifications (78).

One case of Scarlet Fever, two cases of Whooping Cough and two notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis occurred.

Notes of the work carried out by the North Riding County Council under Sections 22,23, 24, and 25 of the National Health Service Act, 1946 are to be found on pages 4 and 5 of this report.

Water Supplies. The report of the Sanitary Inspector gives details of these supplies and the results of water samples taken from various sources, and in this connection I would like to call attention to the remarks in the report on the Barton Water Supply.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.
Details will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's report under this heading.

Refuse Disposal. Public Scavenging, as recorded in the Sanitary Inspector's Report is satisfactory.

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health. F.W.Gavin, M.B., B.S., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector (Part-Time) J.D.Collins, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector. (Part-Time). J.F.Ellison, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of the District in acres, ...	19,731
Resident Population, ...	2,564
Number of inhabited houses at 1st April, 1953,	729
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1953,..	£10,477
Sum represented by a penny rate, ...	£42. 1s. 9d.
Rate in £ levied at 1st April, 1953,.	10/-

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS. The number of live births registered during the year was 57 as against 47 in 1952. The birth rates comparison shows that the rate for the District is again greater than that for the rest of England and Wales.

The number of still-births registered in the District during the year was again Nil, as in 1952.

BIRTH RATE COMPARISONS.

	per 1,000 population. Live Births.	Still-births.
Croft Rural District, 1952,	18.13	0.00
Croft Rural District, 1953	22.23	0.00
England and Wales, 1953	15.50	.35

ANALYSIS OF BIRTHS.

	Live Births. 1952		1953		Still-births. 1952		1953	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Legitimate,	32	14	23	30	.	.	.	.
Illegitimate,	.	1	3	1	.	.	.	.

DEATHS. Maternal Mortality. Again there was no case of a woman dying in, or in consequence of child-birth in the District, and as there was no such death in 1952 and 1951 this compares very favourably with the maternal death rate for England and Wales, which for 1953 was .76 per 1,000 total live births.

Infantile Mortality. The number of infants (under one year) who died during 1953 was two, as against None in 1952.

Infantile Mortality Comparisons. per 1,000 live births.

Croft Rural District, 1952	0.00
Croft Rural District, 1953	35.09
England and Wales, 1953	27.60

Analysis of Infantile Deaths.	Sex.	Age.
1. Congenital Heart Disease,	F	4 months.
2. Prematurity,	M	1 day.

Deaths from all causes. During 1953 there were 22 deaths from all causes registered in the District, as against 18 deaths in 1952, again comparing favourably with that for England and Wales.

Death Rates Comparisons.	Death Rate per 1,000 population.
Croft Rural District, 1952.	6.94
Croft Rural District, 1953.	8.58
England and Wales, 1953.	11.40

Cause of All Deaths and Sexes.	1952		1953	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Tuberculosis, respiratory,	.	1	.	.
Tuberculosis, other,	.	.	.	.
Other infective and parasitic diseases,	.	.	.	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach,	.	1	.	.
-"- -"- breast,	.	.	.	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms,	.	3	.	.
Diabetes,	1	.	.	.
Vascular lesions of nervous system,	1	4	2	.
Coronary disease, angina,	1	.	2	1
Other heart diseases,	2	1	2	2
Other circulatory diseases,	.	1	2	2
Influenza,	.	.	.	1
Pneumonia,	.	.	1	.
Bronchitis,	.	.	1	.
Nephritis and Nephrosis,	.	1	.	.
Congenital Malformations,	.	.	.	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases,	.	1	3	.
Totals.	5	13	13	9

Number of deaths from the seven chief causes and rate per 1,000 population.

	Number of Deaths.		Rate.	
	1952	1953	1952	1953.
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary,	1	.	.39	.
Tuberculosis, Non Pulmonary,	.	.	.	.
Cancer,	4	1	1.54	.39
Heart Disease,	4	7	1.54	2.75
Vascular lesions of nervous system,	5	2	1.92	.78
Respiratory (not Tuberculosis)	.	3	.	1.17
Other circulatory diseases,	1	4	.39	1.56
Totals.	15	17	5.78	6.63

Ages at Death from all Causes.	1952	1953
Under 1 year, ...	.	2
1/25 years, ...	1	1
25/55 years, ...	3	4
55/75 years, ...	6	8
over 75 years, ...	8	7
Totals	18	22

INFECTIOUS DISEASES. There were 76 cases of notifiable diseases reported in 1953; due to 73 cases of measles - epidemic in the early months of the year - as against 11 cases of notifiable diseases reported in 1952.

Analysis and Comparisons.	1952	1953
Scarlet Fever,	1	1
Measles,	.	73
Whooping Cough,	10	2
Totals	11	76

TUBERCULOSIS. There were two notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis in 1953, (a female, aged 14 and a male aged 31 years) as against one case in 1952. Fortunately there were no deaths from this cause in 1953, though one occurred in 1952.

VACCINATIONS AND IMMUNISATIONS.

	1952		1953	
	0-5	over 5	0-5	over 5
Successful Vaccinations,	8	5	12	7
Complete Course of Immunisation,	20	5	23	8

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946

Section 22. Care of Mothers and Young Children.
Section 23. Domiciliary Midwifery.
Section 24. Health Visiting.
Section 25. Home Nursing.

Three District Nurse/Midwives employed by the North Riding County Council carry out the duties required by the above sections of the Act. There is one Infant Welfare Centre in the District - at Manfield, which is also under the jurisdiction of the County Council; this is attended by a local practitioner and the District Nurse, full advantages being taken of the facilities offered. The District Nurse again organised a successful day's outing to Redcar for the mothers and children attending the Clinic.

The number of visits paid to patients by the District Nurse/Midwives during 1953 are as follows:-

Year	Health Visiting	Home Nursing	Domiciliary Midwifery
1953	1088	2294	1000
1952	870	1966	1210

Number of attendances made by children at the monthly sessions of the Manfield Infant Welfare Centre.	1952	1953
	329	291

Section 27. Ambulance Service. The North Riding County Council provide this service by arrangement, with the St.John's Ambulance Brigade who have three vehicles stationed at Richmond and, with the Hospital Car service, under the jurisdiction of the Women's Voluntary Service. These two services adequately cover Richmond Borough and the Rural Districts of Richmond, Croft, Reeth and Startforth.

Section 28. Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care.

The work of vaccination and immunisation, together with the advice spread by those working in the Public Health Service, Inspectors, Midwives, Maternity and Child Welfare Officers, Doctors and Nurses must all have a beneficial effect on the general health of the community.

Section 29. Domestic Help Service. This service is provided by the County Council and during 1953 two cases received 163 hours service.

Section 51. Mental Health. No Committees in the District. No cases arose during 1952.

Section 47. National Assistance Act,1948 No cases removed during the year.

The public health work of the District has been carried out as usual and I now express my thanks to your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Collins and his assistant for their kind co-operation at all times and my clerical staff for their constant help and conscientious work.

The remainder of this Report was compiled by Mr. Collins and my thanks are here expressed for this great assistance.

Social Conditions and Employment.

The area is primarily an agricultural one with scattered sand and gravel quarries.

There is a disused War-time R.A.F. Station with hutted sites adjacent thereto. The Aerodrome is now used by the R.A.F. in connection with their Station at Goosepool, Middleton-St-George in the adjacent rural district. Part of the airfield is still used by the Darlington and District Aero Club.

Some of the hutted sites are still occupied by squatters as temporary housing quarters, special reference to this is made later on in the report.

There is no evidence to show any marked change in the steady level of employment in the rural district. Employment in the agricultural industry continues at a high level; there is an unsatisfied demand in the area for experienced agricultural workers.

Water Supply. There is piped water supply to the major part of the rural district by statutory undertakers, the Tees Valley Water Board. The parishes served are Cleasby, Cliffe, Manfield, Stapleton and Croft. A bulk supply from the Tees Valley Water Board also serves, through a private main, part of the parish of Over Dinsdale. The Council take a bulk supply from the same authority for part of the parish of Dalton and from Richmond Rural District Council for the Temporary Housing Sites (Ex.R.A.F. Station) situated in part of the parishes of Dalton and Croft.

The parish of Barton is supplied by a private undertaking and has been fully described in my previous report. Complaint was made in the 1952 Annual Report regarding the purity of this supply and during the year a careful check was made that the condition did not deteriorate. The supply is not entirely satisfactory and what seems to be necessary is the provision of chlorinator to make it safe. The owner is very reluctant to both meet the expense and interfere with the palatability of the supply. I hope to eventually arrange for the Council to take it over. Particulars of Analyses are indicated at the end of the Section.

Apart from the above, the other main supplies are, I understand satisfactory in both quality and quantity. In the parishes of Newton Morrell, Eryholme and Girsby as well as outlying parts of all parishes there is no mains supply. In these places the occupiers are served by springs and wells.

Samples of water are taken by the Statutory undertakers and are as follows:-

Tees Valley Water Board	-	267 satisfactory,
		1 unsatisfactory,
Barton Water Supply	-	Nil satisfactory,
		2 unsatisfactory,
Richmond,	-	4 satisfactory,
		2 unsatisfactory.

There are no installations for the treatment of water apart from filtration and chlorination (Tees Valley Water Board and Richmond R.D.C.)

The following is a list of degrees of hardness for each supply:-

	Temporary Hardness	Permanent Hardness
Barton Water Supply,	23.5	9.2
Tees Valley Water Board,	2.45	1.05
Richmond,	22.84	2.16

No water in the area is known to have plumbo-solvent action.

WATER SAMPLES.

No.	Date	Place	B.Coli	Faecal	Classification.
1.	7.1.53	1,East View, Barton	5	-	III Suspicious
2.	9.2.53	-do-	11	-	IV Unsatisfactory
3.	24.2.53	-do-	180+	8	IV Unsatisfactory
4.	16.3.53	-do-	13	-	IV Unsatisfactory
5.	21.4.53	-do-	-	-	I Highly Satisfactory
6.	12.5.53	-do-	3	-	III Suspicious
7.	30.6.53	-do-	30	1	IV Unsatisfactory
8.	5-8-53	-do-	20	5	IV Unsatisfactory
9.	12.8.53	-do-	5	-	III Suspicious

The above classification is in accordance with the Ministry of Health's instructions with regard to piped water supplies. As this supply is not treated in any way, the Pathologist at the Public Health Laboratory expressed the opinion that when the B.Coli count is not excessive and consists of all non-faecal organisms, as in the majority of samples, the water could be accepted as reasonably satisfactory, but any further deterioriation should be viewed with concern.

Proposed Scheme.

Eryholme. No further progress has been made regarding the provision of a mains supply to this village. It is expected that next year further in ormation will be available from officials of Northallerton R.D.C. regarding the cost when the Council's attention will again be drawn to the matter.

Cleasby, Stapleton, Croft, Newton Morrell and Barton.

The Council was advised by the Water Supplies Officer of the North Riding Agricultural Executive Committee that the scheme was unlikely to be sanctioned at the present time. In view of this and considering that the needs in this part of the Council's area were almost entirely agricultural the Council resolved to abandon this proposal for the present time.

Croft. The Council considered a proposal on the recommendation of theAgricultural Executive Committee to extend the Tees Valley Water Board's mains in the Halnaby area of this parish to certain outlying farms. It was decided to find out the costs from the Tees Valley Water Board before any decision was reached.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The villages of Barton and Stapleton have combined Sewerage and Sewage Disposal systems. At Cleasby, Eryholme, Manfield, Croft and Dalton there are combined sewers which discharge without proper treatment to ditches. In the remaining parishes of Newton Morrell, Cliffe, Girsby and Over Dinsdale, no public sewer is available, although there are only a few scattered dwelling houses in these parishes. In all the parishes many houses have their own cesspools, some with filters, about which no complaints are received. The Council periodically flush and clean sewers and tanks at Barton and Stapleton and the combined sewers at Manfield, Croft and Dalton.

The temporary housing sites at Croft and Dalton (disused R.A.F. hutments) are properly drained, W.Cs. being provided to all hutments and two modern Sewage Disposal Works are maintained by a special staff appointed by the Council (as Agents for the Ministry of ~~Health~~). Housing & Local Government

The Council do not undertake the emptying of cesspools in the area.

Proposed Scheme

Croft. Work commenced on this scheme during the year and by December approximately 700 yards of sewer had been laid (about 40% of total length). At the same time the suction pit and pump well to the Pumping Station had been constructed up to house floor level and the overflow pipe completed. Considerable progress was also made on the sludge beds, filters and settling tanks. It is expected that the scheme will be completed by the summer of next year.

Barton. Complaint was received regarding the effluent from these works where there is only a sedimentation tank and overflow to the beck. The Council agreed to the preparation of the scheme for the provision of a new works and a Consultant was appointed and required to submit a report as soon as possible.

Manfield. Mention was made in the 1952 report regarding the Council's decision to call for a scheme for this village. Their Consultant was unable to submit his report during the year, but it is expected that the information required will be available for the Council next year.

Cleasby, Dalton and Stapleton. Although reports on the cost of preliminary schemes have been accepted for these villages, no further instructions have been given to the Consultant regarding them.

Closet Accommodation. During the year seven ash closets and privies were converted into W.Cs., as compared with nine in 1952. The Council do not pay a grant towards the cost of W.C. conversions. The Council considered a report from their Sanitary Inspector regarding a suggestion that grants be made towards closet conversions. The Council decided not to make contributions under Section 47 (4) of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Scavenging. Public scavenging is carried out in the parishes of Croft, Barton, Newton Morrell, Cleasby, Cliffe, Manfield, Dalton, Eryholme and Stapleton by contract every two weeks. The total cost being £635 per annum. The temporary housing sites in the parishes of Croft and Dalton are scavenged once a week by the same Contractor at an inclusive cost of 1/1d per bin (bins supplied).

Sanitary Inspection.

Summary of Inspections and Re-inspections under the Public Health Acts.	No. of Visits.	No. of Informal Notices. Served.	Remedied	No. of Statutory Notices. Served	Remedied
Water Supplies,	17	2	1	6	6
Housing Inspections,	13	-	-	1	-
Ash Pits and Privies,	2	3	2	-	-
Water Closets,	-	-	-	-	-
Drainage,	8	-	-	-	-
Dangerous Buildings,	-	-	-	-	-
Moveable Dwellings,	1	-	-	-	-
Animal Nuisances,	3	-	-	-	-
Other Nuisances,	18	7	7	-	-
	62	12	10	7	6

No. of General Inspections and Visits.

Sewerage,	19
Water Supplies,	13
Buildings in Course of Erection,	10
Drains Inspected,	26
Council House repairs etc.	77
Food Inspection,	1
Miscellaneous (Building Licences etc.)	17
Infectious Diseases,	2
	165

Disinfestation. No verminous premises were found during routine inspections nor were any notified.

Schools. No complaints were received in connection with schools.

HOUSING.

1. Civil Building Licences. New Dwellings by Private Enterprise.

Two Building Licences, one for the erection of a bungalow and the other for the conversion of one large house to two separate dwellings at a cost of £3,166 was issued by the Council during the year compared with the issue of two building licences for the erection of one house and the conversion of one building into a dwelling in 1952.

Erection of New Houses.

A. Private Enterprise. Two new houses and one new bungalow were completed as compared with two new houses completed, one converted from loose boxes and one from store rooms over garages last year.

B. Council Houses. There were no Council Houses under construction during the year.

Temporary Houses. The Council, as Agents for the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, have under their control five dis-used R.A.F. hutted sites. The hutments as mentioned in previous reports were adapted for temporary housing purposes on the sites, each family having a self-contained unit of housing comprising from one to three bedrooms and living room complete with cooking stove and piped water supply over sink. There is also a laundry house and sanitary accommodation. The sites contain 4½" brick built hutments with asbestos roof, corrugated galvanized iron nissen huts, and felted plasterboard huts with corrugated galvanized iron roofs, all of which are properly drained and sewered.

The following are the figures for the number of families housed on the various sites at the 31st December, 1953.

1.	Woodside, ...	17
2.	Whitley, ...	13
3.	Wellington, ...	11
4.	Lancaster, ...	13
	Comm.Halifax,.. ...	38
	Technical Site, ...	1

The Technical Assistant who was employed full time with two labourers resigned at the end of 1952 and the post was not re-advertised. Two labourers are employed full time on the site, dealing with maintenance repairs and other various complaints and needs of the occupiers of the hutments. These occupiers are a mixed class and there is great difficulty in dealing with the unsatisfactory type.

A further 24 sub-standard huts were sold during the year.

Applications for Council Houses. The total number of applicants for Council houses, from families residing in the rural area is 96 of which 29 were without homes of their own, as against a total of 82 families in February, 1952

The number of applications from families residing outside the Council's area was 48 as compared with 60 in 1952.

Inspections under the Housing Acts.

Total number of dwelling houses inspected - 31

Category of houses inspected.

No. of dwelling houses fit in all respects,	25
" " requiring minor repairs,	3
" " unfit for human habitation,	3

Action was taken under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 in connection with the dwelling known as Hinkle Cottage, Barton.

An overcrowded family from part of the dwelling was re-housed and a demolition order made.

Similar action was taken in connection with Orchard Cottage, Manfield, the family being re-housed and negotiations commenced with the owner with regard to the future use of the cottage.

Moveable Dwellings. Two application were received and granted, one for a renewal of a licence and one new application to use land and station a caravan.

Plans under Byelaws. The following is a list of plans submitted under the Council's Building Byelaws during the year:-

New Houses (including Council Houses)	3
Alterations and additions to houses,	2
Conversions of buildings into houses,	-
Agricultural buildings,	6
Shops, stalls etc.,	-
Garage and Sheds etc.,	6
W.C. and drainage etc.	5
Alterations to other buildings,	2
Others,	2
Total	26

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

There are twelve general dealers and confectioners in the area, only one butcher's shop, one fish-shop and no cafes.

It has not been found necessary to take any action under the Council's Byelaws although ten inspections were made of food premises. The food premises consist of small shops most of which are run by housewives with their living quarters behind. The shop-keepers are becoming more conscious of the necessity of taking every care in the handling of food although this is rather difficult in the limited space provided.

There are seven public houses including hotels and a few of the larger having catering licences. In the latter instances most of the premises have been modernised. The only other catering establishments are a nursery school run by Sunderland County Borough and a tea garden where teas are served.

No complaints have been received in connection with any of these premises although we are aware that the sanitary arrangements in two of the smaller public houses could be improved. In these cases, the owners have been advised and it is expected that plans will be received next year in connection with one of them.

During the year the sanitary accommodation of one of the public houses referred to in last years report has been improved and the premises modernised.

Condemnation of Food. The following foodstuffs were examined and found to be unfit for human consumption and were voluntarily surrendered.

1 x 12 lbs. 7 ozs. tin Cooked boneless Gammon ham.
1 x 9 lbs. 8 ozs. " " " "

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938, SECTION 14.

Ice Cream. There are no manufacturers of ice cream in the area. No application was received for registration of premises for the storage and sale of ice-cream. The total number of registered premises is three.

Slaughter Houses, Slaughtering. The Government scheme of Centralised Slaughterhouses was continued during the year and all slaughtering for the area was carried out at the Park Lane Slaughterhouse in Darlington.

Five renewal licences to slaughter animals were granted during the year.

Milk. There are fourteen distributors of milk in the area, all of whom are producer-retailers.

The following supplementary licences were issued to distributors from outside the district.

Tuberculin Tested, 2 Pasteurised, 2

No complaint has been received regarding the distribution of milk or upon the condition of their premises.

It was not found necessary for the Medical Officer to take any action under the Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949 regarding prohibition of sale of any milk or directing its heat treatment before sale.

MISCELLANEOUS.

FACTORIES ACTS - 1937 and 1949

Part I of the Act.

1. Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register. (3)	Number of:- Inspections. (4)	Written Notices. (5)	Prosecuted. (6)
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4,& 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	7	2	-	-
(2) Factories not included in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	4	3	-	-
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises.	1	5	-	-
Totals	12	10	-	-

Cases in which defects were found - Nil
Outworkers, - Nil

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act & Regulations, 1951

There are no manufacturers or registered premises in the area.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

It has not been possible owing to shortage of labour and pressure of other more important work to spend the time necessary to fully carry out the provision of this Act.

The Council's Sanitary Inspectors when they are in the district visiting houses and premises on other business deal with any infestations that may be found.

During the year all the Council's properties were inspected, although it was impossible to carry out test baiting in all sewers it is expected the latter will be dealt with in 1954.

I understand many farms are well served by the Agricultural Committee's Rodent Service.

Byelaws in force in district.

Slaughter Houses,	-	6.1.25
New Streets,	-	1.1.40
Food Handling,	-	30.5.50
New Building Byelaws,	-	8.9.53

Petroleum (Regulations) Acts, 1928 and 1936.

Sixteen renewal licences to store petroleum spirit were issued during the year.

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